

Message Text

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11
ACTION SS-15

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R 081510Z SEP 75
FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4361
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY DAKAR

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FOR EAGLEBURGER FROM AMBASSADOR

ABIDJAN FOR RSO

DAKAR FOR KARR

E.O. 11652: N/A - DECONTROL 30 SEPT 1976
TAGS: ASEC ABLD AFSP
SUBJECT: SECURITY PROTECTION OF FOREIGN SERVICE INSTALLATIONS

REF: A. STATE 210312 B. STATE 211364 C. NOUAKCHOTT 1565

1. IT IS MOST GRATIFYING TO RECEIVE RECONFIRMATION OF HIGH-LEVEL CFCERN IN DEPARTMENT FOR SECURITY OF U.S. FOREIGN SERVICE INSTALLATIONS ABROAD, TOGETHER WITH INDICATION OF SPECIAL SOLICITUDE R ACCESS TO PUBLIC AREAS OF OVERSEAS POSTS. SO FAR AS NOUAKCHOTT IS CONCERNED, HOWEVER, TIME HAS COME FOR ACTION NOT MORE STUDIES.

2. LESS THAN ADEQUATE PHYSICAL SECURITY SITUATION HERE PROMPTED US TO SOLICIT ASSISTANCE OF REGIONAL SECURITY OFFICER LATE LAST SPRING, AND TO CARRY OUT CAREFUL AND THOROUGH EVALUATION IN JULY OF SECURITY POSTURE OF CHANCERY, AID AND PEACE CORPS BUILDINGS, AND OF HOUSING ON AND OFF COMPOUND. TELEGRAM REPORTING FINDINGS, PROPOSING SOLUTION, SEEKING
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URGENT TECHNICAL EXPERTISE ON DESIGN OF TWO CRITICAL

ELEMENTS, AND EXPLICITLY REQUESTING MONEY TO IMPLEMENT ALL RECOMMENDATIONS ON PRIORITY BASIS WAS DESPATCHED AUGUST 4 (REF C). IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT RSO CLARKE SUBSEQUENTLY SUBMITTED HIS EXPERT'S REPORT COMPLETE WITH PHOTOGRAPHS TO SY.

3. WE STILL HAVE NO MONEY. TO EXTENT WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO STEAL MONEY FROM OTHER ACTIVITIES, WE HAVE ADDED SEVERAL OF LOW-COST ITEMS IN JOINT POST-RSO SECURITY UPGRADE ACTION PROGRAM. BUT MORE COSTLY PROJECTS ARE AT STAND STILL. STEEL BAR GRILL TO PROTECT FLOOR-TO-CEILING WINDOWS AND GLASS DOORS OF MAIN ENTRANCE AND ENABLE US TO DENY ACCESS TO RECEPTION AREA OF CHANCERY HAS BEEN DESIGNED, AND CON-TRACTOR IS STANDING BY. WE CAN GO NO FURTHER HOWEVER, UNTIL WE RECEIVE THE \$3,160 REQUESTED PARAGRAPH 3 REF C. PROPOSED BRICKING UP OF RECESSED ALCOVE IN FRONT OF MEDICAL UNIT, ADJUDGED MOST VULNERABLE SEGMENT IN COMPOUND PERIMETER, IS STALLED PENDING RECEIPT OF REQUESTED \$2,300 (PARAGRAPH 6 REF C).

4. TO DATE WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO ARRANGE TO OBTAIN REQUIRED TECHNICAL EXPERTISE TO PERMIT US TO ATTACK TOP TWO PRIORITY ITEMS IN ACTION PROGRAM: RECONSTRUCTION OF PERIMETER WALL WHICH AS RESULT OF RECENT CONSTRUCTION OF ADJACENT STREET IS NOW BARELY WAIST HIGH IN PLACES; AND MAJOR UPGRADING OF LIGHTING THROUGHOUT COMPOUND. AS LAYMEN, WE ARE STYMIED UNTIL WE GET CIVIL AND ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING ASSISTANCE. OUR EFFORT TO PIGGY-BACK ON FBO PROJECT MANAGER IN DAKAR (JOHN KARR) HAS SO FAR BEEN ONLY PARTIALLY SUCCESSFUL. (HE HAS PROVIDED TENTATIVE DESIGN FOR NEW WALL, BUT HAS NOT YET BEEN ABLE TO BREAK AWAY FROM DEMANDS OF CHANCERY CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM IN DAKAR TO MAKE WORKING VISIT HERE.) PREFERRED SOLUTION WOULD BE DESPATCH TO NOUAKHOTT OF FBO ENGINEER-ARCHITECT FROM WASHINGTON, ESPECIALLY SINCE KARR DECLARES HE IS NOT AN ELECTRICAL ENGINEER AND BECAUSE FISCAL PRUDENCE ARGUES STRONGLY FOR INTEGRATION OF DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF NEW PERIMETER WALL INTO DESIGN AND LATER CONSTRUCTION OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CRITICALLY NEEDED GENERAL SERVICES COMPLEX.

5. I AM GREATLY ENCOURAGED BY ASSURANCE OF YOUR PERSONAL INTEREST AND WILLINGNESS TO BECOME INVOLVED IN EFFORT TO ELIMINATE RAPIDLY OUR SECURITY VULNERABILITIES. WE WILL ALL BE MOST GRATEFUL FOR YOUR HELP IN GETTING OUR STALLED ACTION PROGRAM OFF DEAD CENTER. WARMEST REGARDS. HANDYSIDE

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